SUBJECTS.

Mr. T. Kumara Pillai (Member, Kalkulam Taluk) referred to the special suffering in south Travancore and to the clog placed on cultivation by the diminution of agricultural manure, as the trees near habitations were being cut and used as fuel.

Mr. G. Sankaranarayana Iyer and *Mr. Subramonia Karayalan* (Members, Shencottah Taluk) supported the previous speakers.

Dewan's reply.— In the case of reserved forests, there is now a duty of one rupee per ton ; and in the case of unreserved forests, the duty is one rupee per ton, if the fuel is removed for local consumption, and one rupee and eight annas per ton if the fuel is removed for export. Government do not consider these rates excessive and are not prepared to abolish or reduce the duty. It is observed that head-loads are now free.

30. *Exclusion from reserves of tracts near cultivated areas.*

Mr. M. Madhavan Tampi (Member, Kalkulam Taluk) requested that forest tracts bordering on inhabited and cultivated areas should be excluded from reserves. The inclusion of such tracts was not contemplated by the Forest Regulation. He said that the proximity of such reserved areas was causing great injury and mischief, as wild beasts, such as tigers, came down on the human habitations close by. He added that tracts, where teak and blackwood capable of yielding a good revenue could not be grown, were being reserved, and said he could, if necessary, furnish a list of the localities which should be excluded from the reserves.

Dewan's reply.—Government think that it would be retrograde policy to disafforest areas once reserved. All forest reservation is made after due enquiry and if we now begin to disafforest reserved areas, there will be no finality, and the tendency will then always be to put back the boundaries of forests, because cultivation has extended up to those boundaries. The member may send in a list, as moderately framed as possible, of the forests which he considers very objectionable and Government will ask the Peishkars whether the grievances alleged are sufficiently serious to warrant disafforestation. I may, however, tell you that the policy of Government will be not to adopt such a course except on very special grounds.

31. *Supply of manure leaves and timber for agricultural implements.*

Mr. M. Madhavan Tampi also requested that specified areas should be notified in the Gazette and thrown open to the general public for the free supply of manure leaves and timber for agricultural implements.

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